

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention relates to a vibration wave driving apparatus including an electro-mechanical energy conversion element that is sandwiched and fixed between elastic members, in which a flange-shaped elastic member is provided between the electro-mechanical energy conversion element and one of the elastic members. When a driving vibration is applied to the electro-mechanical energy conversion element, a vibration element excites bending vibrations and those bending vibrations allow out-of-plane bending vibrations to be excited in the flange-shaped elastic member. Since a rotor is brought into contact with the third elastic member sandwiched between the elastic member and the electro-mechanical energy conversion element, the size of the vibration wave driving apparatus can be reduced. In addition, since a travelling wave produced by the bending vibration of the vibration element and a travelling wave produced by the out-of-plane bending vibration of the third elastic member are generated at the frictional surface of the vibration element, the output of the vibration wave driving apparatus can be improved.